

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) Ceramic element (1) with at least one substantially homogenous ceramic layer (2),

- the ceramic layer (2) having a plurality of partial ceramic layers (3) arranged one on top of the other,

- at least one electrode layer (8) being arranged on at least one surface section (7) of the ceramic layer (2),

- at least one further electrode layer (10) being arranged on a further surface section (9) of the ceramic layer (2) such that the electrode layers (8, 10) are arranged opposite each other and the ceramic layer (2) is arranged between the electrode layers (8, 10), characterized in that

- at least one of the electrode layers (8, 10) is arranged between the ceramic layer (2) and at least one further ceramic layer (13) and is buried by said at least one further ceramic layer (13).

16. (previously presented) Ceramic element according to Claim 15, wherein the partial ceramic layers (3) have a ceramic material (6) selected from the group of green ceramics and/or sintered ceramics.

17. (previously presented) Ceramic element according to Claim 15, wherein at least one of the partial ceramic layers (3) has a partial layer thickness (4) selected from the range 5 μm to 250 μm inclusive.

18. (previously presented) Ceramic element according to Claim 15, wherein the ceramic layer (2) has an overall layer thickness (5) selected from the range 10 μm to 5mm inclusive.

19. (previously presented) Ceramic element according to Claim 16, wherein the ceramic material (6) comprises a piezo-ceramic.

20. (previously presented) Ceramic element according to Claim 19, wherein the piezo-ceramic (6) is a lead zirconate titanate.

21. (previously presented) Ceramic element according to Claim 15, wherein the element (1) is selected from the group of piezo-electric transformers (11) or piezo-electric bending transducers (12).

22. (previously presented) Method for producing a ceramic element according to Claim 15, which comprises the following method steps:

a) arranging the homogenous partial ceramic layers one on top of the other to form a stack; and

b) compacting the stack, the ceramic element being formed with the ceramic layer.

23. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 22, wherein ceramic green films with a green ceramic are used as the homogenous partial ceramic layers.

24. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of compacting the stack includes laminating.

25. (previously presented) Method according to Claim 22, wherein the step of compacting the stack includes heat treatment of the stack.

26. (new) Ceramic element (1) with at least one substantially homogenous ceramic layer (2),

- the ceramic layer (2) having a plurality of partial ceramic layers (3) arranged one on top of the other,

- at least one electrode layer (8) being arranged on at least one surface section (7) of the ceramic layer (2),

- at least one further electrode layer (10) being arranged on a further surface section (9) of the ceramic layer (2) such that the electrode layers (8, 10) are arranged opposite each other and the ceramic layer (2) is arranged between the electrode layers (8, 10), characterized in that

- at least one of the electrode layers (8, 10) is arranged between the ceramic layer (2) and at least one further ceramic layer (13), said at least one further ceramic layer (13) having an exposed surface opposite its adjacent said electrode layer (8, 10).

27. (new) Ceramic element (1) with a substantially homogenous ceramic layer (2),

- the ceramic layer (2) having a plurality of partial ceramic layers (3) arranged one on top of the other,

- two electrode layers (8, 10) arranged one on each of two opposite surface sections (7) of the ceramic layer (2), and

- a further ceramic layer (13) on a side of each electrode layer (8, 10) opposite the first mentioned ceramic layer (2).